

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0042089 to NOMURA, which was published on March 4, 2004;

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0051971, which was published on March 18, 2004; and

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0042777, which was published on March 4, 2004.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached and all of the documents have been listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following co-pending, commonly assigned patent applications:

R. Mook
4/18/05
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/769,925 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Cam Mechanism of a Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 3, 2004;

R. Mook
4/18/05
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/771,298 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Structure of a Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 5, 2004;

R. Mach 4/18/05
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/771,419 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Structure of a Zoom Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 5, 2004;

R. Mach 4/18/05
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/771,402 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 5, 2004;

R. Mach 4/18/05
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/771,300 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Retracting Mechanism of a Zoom Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 5, 2004; and

R. Mach 4/18/05
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/771,299 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Light Shielding Structure of a Retractable Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 5, 2004.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-noted applications are enclosed herewith. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the instant application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued and is crossing this statement in the mail, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 (p), to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.